

REMARKS

The applicant thanks the examiner for his review and consideration of the pending application.

The examiner has stated that there are seven patentably distinct species represented by the drawings: Figures 1-10; Figures 11 and 12; Figures 13 and 14; Figures 15 and 16; Figures 17-20; Figures 21 and 22; and Figures 23 and 24. Claims involving Figures 23 and 24 have been withdrawn. No other claim specifically directed to the embodiments represented by Figures 11-14 or 17-20 is now being prosecuted.

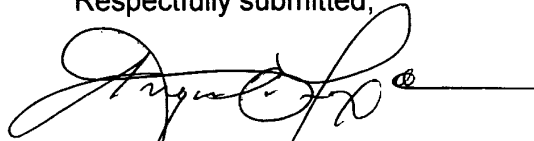
The only difference between the embodiment of Figures 21 and 22 and that of Figures 1, 2 and 3 is size. Size should have no effect, whatsoever, on patentability. In addition, the only difference between the first embodiment tray of Figure 8 and that of Figures 15 and 16 is that the former has had the upper and lower portion trimmed therefrom. In any case, the claims that have been selected do not distinguish between the two tray embodiments.

If the examiner can provide convincing evidence to the effect that the embodiments of 15 and 16 and 21 and 22 represent patentably distinct species of protective cases for optical storage disks, then the applicant drawings will be limited to drawing figures 1-10. However, as the claims are not specifically directed to the embodiments of Figures 15, 16, 21 and 22, the matter should be irrelevant.

It is believed that the specification and claims of the present application are in a condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding office action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus C. Fox, III', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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